

Shore Drive, Saint Petersburg, Florida; Glen O. McEwen, Distinguished Service Cross, box 737, Spokane 3, Washington; Ben. Prager, Distinguished Service Cross, 316 Court House, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Earle D. Norton, Distinguished Service Cross, 29 Broadway, New York, New York; Ray Eastman, Navy Cross, 396 LaSalle Avenue, Buffalo 15, New York; Ben Neff, Distinguished Service Cross, 208 Evanston Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota; Warren L. Granger, Navy Cross, 703 Sixteenth Street, Alexandria, Virginia; William Oliver Smith, Distinguished Service Cross, 917 Holt Drive, Raleigh, North Carolina; Robert M. Gaynor, Distinguished Service Cross, 621 South Taylor Street, Arlington, Virginia; Leon M. Hanna, Distinguished Service Cross, box 217, McHenry, Illinois; Bruno O. Forsterer, Congressional Medal of Honor, Walker Street, Oakland, California; Elmer R. Hangartner, Distinguished Service Cross, 2103 Lynn Avenue, Altoona, Wisconsin; Thomas Eadie, Congressional Medal of Honor, 120 Gibbs Avenue, Newport, Rhode Island; John D. Hawk, Congressional Medal of Honor, 3243 Solie, Bremerton, Washington; Leon A. Dombrowski, Distinguished Service Cross, 137 Highland Drive, Williamsville, New York; William C. Hardie, Distinguished Service Cross, post-office box 1396, Billings, Montana; E. Lee Henderson, Navy Cross, 10948 Fruitland Drive, North Hollywood, California; Othel J. Gee, Distinguished Service Cross, 416 Medical Arts Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Leslie Hardy, Distinguished Service Cross, 1021 East Sierra Vista, Phoenix, Arizona; A. Allen Johnson, Distinguished Service Cross, 953 Dixwell Avenue, New Haven, Connecticut; Dennis C. Turner, Distinguished Service Cross, 1008 Missouri Avenue, Houston, Texas; Columbus Whipple, Distinguished Service Cross, 2704 Brinker Avenue, Ogden, Utah; John D. Licklider, Distinguished Service Cross, 229 Woodrow Avenue, Martinsburg, West Virginia; Murry Wolffe, Navy Cross, 240 Gregory Avenue, Passaic, New Jersey; Willard H. Marshall, Distinguished Service Cross, 31 West Whitney Street, Sheridan, Wyoming; Peter Paul Martinek, Navy Cross, 1731 South Brand Boulevard, Glendale, California; Lucian Adams, Congressional Medal of Honor, 213 Santa Clara Street, San Antonio, Texas; and Edgar H. Bain, post-office box 2, Goldsboro, North Carolina, and their successors, are created and declared to be a body corporate of the District of Columbia, where its legal domicile shall be, by the name of the Legion of Valor of the United States of America, Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as the "corporation"), and by such name shall be known and have perpetual succession and the powers, limitations, and restrictions herein contained.

(Aug. 4, 1955, ch. 546, §1, 69 Stat. 486; June 21, 1961, Pub. L. 87-56, §1, 75 Stat. 95.)

CHANGE OF NAME

"Legion of Valor of the United States of America, Incorporated" substituted in text for "Army and Navy Legion of Valor of the United States of America, Incorporated" on authority of section 1 of Pub. L. 87-56. See section 648 of this title.

SECTION REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This section is referred to in section 632 of this title.

§ 632. Completion of organization

The persons named in section 631 of this title are authorized to complete the organization of the corporation by the selection of officers and employees, the adoption of a constitution and bylaws, not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter, and the doing of such other acts as may be necessary for such purpose. Five of such persons shall constitute a quorum for the purposes enumerated in this section.

(Aug. 4, 1955, ch. 546, §2, 69 Stat. 487.)

§ 633. Principles and objects of corporation

(a) The principles underlying the corporation are patriotic allegiance to the United States of America, fidelity to its Constitution and law, the security of civil liberty, and the permanence of free institutions.

(b) The objects of the corporation are to cherish the memories of the valiant deeds in arms for which the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross, and the Navy Cross are the insignia; to promote true fellowship among its members; to advance the best interests of members of the Armed Forces of the United States of America; to extend all possible relief to needy members of the corporation, their widows, and children; and to stimulate patriotism in the minds of our youth by encouraging the study of the patriotic, military, and naval history of our Nation.

(Aug. 4, 1955, ch. 546, §3, 69 Stat. 487; June 21, 1961, Pub. L. 87-56, §2, 75 Stat. 95.)

AMENDMENTS

1961—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 87-56 inserted "Air Force Cross" after "Distinguished Service Cross,".

§ 634. Powers of corporation

The corporation shall have power—

- (1) to have succession by its corporate name;
- (2) to sue and be sued, complain and defend in any court of competent jurisdiction;
- (3) to adopt, use, and alter a corporate seal;
- (4) to charge and collect membership dues;
- (5) to adopt, amend, and alter a constitution and bylaws, not inconsistent with the laws of the United States or any State in which the corporation is to operate, for the management of its property and the regulation of its affairs;
- (6) to contract and be contracted with;
- (7) to take by lease, gift, purchase, grant, devise, or bequest from any private corporation, association, partnership, firm, or individual and to hold any property, real, personal, or mixed, necessary or convenient for attaining the objects and carrying into effect the purposes of the corporation, subject, however, to applicable provisions of law of any State (A) governing the amount or kind of property which may be held by, or (B) otherwise limiting or controlling the ownership of property by, a corporation operating in such State;
- (8) to transfer, convey, lease, sublease, encumber, and otherwise alienate real, personal or mixed property; and
- (9) to borrow money for the purposes of the corporation, issue bonds therefor, and secure

the same by mortgage, deed of trust, pledge, or otherwise, subject in every case to all applicable provisions of Federal and State laws.

(Aug. 4, 1955, ch. 546, § 4, 69 Stat. 487.)

§ 635. Principal office; territorial scope of activities; agent for service of process

(a) The principal office of the corporation shall be located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, or in such other place as may later be determined by the board of directors, but the activities of the corporation shall not be confined to that place and may be conducted throughout the various States, Territories, and possessions of the United States.

(b) The corporation shall have in the District of Columbia at all times a designated agent authorized to accept service of process for the corporation; and notice to or service upon such agent, or mailed to the business address of such agent, shall be deemed notice to or service upon the corporation.

(Aug. 4, 1955, ch. 546, § 5, 69 Stat. 487.)

§ 636. Membership

(a) Eligibility

All persons of good moral character who are, have been, or may become members of the Armed Forces of the United States or any foreign country of whatever rank, who have received or who may hereafter receive a Congressional Medal of Honor, a Distinguished Service Cross, Air Force Cross or a Navy Cross awarded for acts of extraordinary heroism in connection with military or naval operations against an armed enemy, or for heroism of a specially distinguished character, shall be eligible for active membership in the corporation.

(b) Extension of eligibility to parents and descendants

The corporation shall have the power, moreover, to extend eligibility for membership, either active or associate, to parents and lineal descendants of the persons described in subsection (a) of this section under such conditions and upon such terms as the corporation may specify in its constitution and bylaws.

(c) Voting rights

Each member of the corporation, other than associate members, shall have the right to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote at all meetings of the members of the corporation.

(d) Exception

Notwithstanding the limitations set out in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, any member in good standing of the corporate body referred to in section 646 of this title shall be admitted on request to comparable membership in the corporation created by this chapter.

(Aug. 4, 1955, ch. 546, § 6, 69 Stat. 488; June 21, 1961, Pub. L. 87-56, § 2, 75 Stat. 95.)

AMENDMENTS

1961—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 87-56 inserted “Air Force Cross” after “Distinguished Service Cross,”.

§ 637. Governing body

(a) Composition

Upon the enactment of this chapter the membership of the initial board of directors of the corporation shall consist of the present officers of the Army and Navy Legion of Valor, referred to in section 646 of this title, or such of them as may then be living and are qualified officers of that corporation, to wit: William Oliver Smith, of Raleigh, North Carolina; Peter Paul Martinek, of Glendale, California; Lucian Adams, of San Antonio, Texas; Edgar H. Bain, of Goldsboro, North Carolina; and Ben Prager, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, who are respectively, the commander, the senior vice commander, the junior vice commander, the chaplain, and the adjutant and quartermaster.

(b) Tenure

Thereafter, the board of directors of the corporation shall consist of such number (not less than ten), shall be selected in such manner (including the filling of vacancies), and shall serve for such terms as may be prescribed in the constitution and bylaws of the corporation.

(c) Duties

The board of directors shall be the governing board of the corporation and shall, during the intervals between corporation meetings, be responsible for the general policies and program of the corporation. The board shall be responsible for all finances of the corporation.

(Aug. 4, 1955, ch. 546, § 7, 69 Stat. 488.)

§ 638. Officers

(a) The officers of the corporation shall be a commander, a senior vice commander, a junior vice commander, a chaplain, an adjutant and quartermaster, a judge advocate, an inspector, a surgeon, a historian, and such aides-de-camp as may be provided in the constitution and bylaws.

(b) The officers of the corporation shall be elected in such manner and for such terms and with such duties as may be prescribed in the constitution and bylaws of the corporation.

(Aug. 4, 1955, ch. 546, § 8, 69 Stat. 489.)

§ 639. Distribution of income or assets to members; loans

(a) No part of the income or assets of the corporation shall inure to any member, officer, or director, or be distributable to any such person otherwise than upon dissolution or final liquidation of the corporation as provided in section 645 of this title. Nothing in this subsection, however, shall be construed to prevent the payment of compensation to officers of the corporation in amounts approved by the executive committee of the corporation.

(b) The corporation shall not make loans to its officers, directors, or employees. Any director who votes for or assents to the making of a loan to an officer, director, or employee of the corporation, and any officer who participates in the making of such loan, shall be jointly and severally liable to the corporation for the amount of such loan until the repayment thereof.

(Aug. 4, 1955, ch. 546, § 9, 69 Stat. 489.)